



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

many late engagements at sea, is remarkable knowne to all Admirals in Europe. Theyre inviolate fidelity and loyal affection to theyre dread and deare Sovereigne Charles 2 King of England, and theyre zealous and incessant services for his Majesty and inseparable attendance on him during his Exile, would require a grand volume: not to mention the abundance of all sorts of Corne, flesh, butter, Tallow, Hides, Wool, Timber, incredible quantity of fish and its variety, the market is supplied with all.

The Barony of Fort had many ancient Gent. resident therein proprietors of Lands now possessed by very few, given as compensation for service in the Usurper's Government performed; unto whom for the Character by him given of the Extraction of his army (as it was frequently related, after his Arrivall in Ireland,) they were not much obliged, affirming that it consisted of very few Noblemen, wherein, and in the like Assertions there may appear manifest injurious Errors, for there is much distinction to be made twixt Nobility of virtue and Nobility by birth. There being sometimes nobility of descent in him who is destitute of virtue; soe there may be virtuous qualities in a plebeian. *Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus.* The philosopher avers. *Nobilitas est majorum splendor et Claritas.* 2 Rhet., c. 15: and distinguishing *Nobilis* from *Generosus* affirms and defines *Nobilis est qui a bono prodiit Genere, Generosus vero est qui non degeneravit a sua Natura.* L. 1, Animal. But virtue is honourable though not ennobled with magnificent titles or by some not applauded, yet by nature is laudable. Aristotles his assertion (Politic. 5, 1) is remarkable and often verified. *Nobilitatem quidem in verbis fere omnes usurpant, sed qui revera Nobiles sint nusquam reperiuntur, Divites autem reperiuntur in multis Locis."*

PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO WEXFORD AND THE BARONY OF FORTH: BY COLONEL SOLOMON RICHARDS, 1682.

EDITED BY HERBERT F. HORE, ESQ.

SOLOMON RICHARDS, the author of the following short chorographic tract, was of a Welsh family, and of Presbyterian tenets. After serving in the Parliamentary army until the overthrow of the Royal cause, he came to Ireland, and received from the Parliamentary Government a grant of several thousand acres of land in the county of Wexford. He continued in command in the Republican army till 1656, being latterly governor of Wexford. After the Restoration, he was concerned in the plot of 1663, organized by the infamous Blood, with the design of seizing Dublin Castle, and restoring

the Republic. His complicity, however, was not so much as to preclude him from subsequently obtaining a confirmation of his grant. Dean Swift mentions an historical passage about him, in a paper entitled "The Presbyterian's Plea of Merit." There was an evident antipathy on the part of this veteran to the people he had been made governor over, and of some of whom he had become landlord. His hand had wielded the sword so long in war against the Confederate Catholics, it was stiff and heavy with the pen. His dislike to his new neighbours was deep, extending even to the women's ancles. His lucubrations are certainly honest, and appear to have been acknowledged by a complimentary letter from the person to whom his paper was sent. Who this was cannot be said. The Colonel addresses him as "Dear Cousin," and subscribes himself, "Your Uncle." This brief chorographic paper presents a curious contrast to the other two on the same subject, already published in the Journal of the Society; for, whereas the author of the preceding paper, who apparently was a Roman Catholic clergyman, speaks, as was to be expected, respectfully of his religion, the Presbyterian Colonel turns it into jest, and the Church of England squire, Leigh of Rosegarland, does not (see Vol. II., new series, p. 451) introduce any religious topic at all.

This tract, along with Leigh's and Sinnot's, is preserved in the original MS. amongst the collection of Sir Thomas Phillips, Bart., of Middle Hill.

COLONEL RICHARDS' ACCOUNT.

"The County of Wexford, being the gate of the Kingdom of Ireland, at which the English under the conduct of Robert Fitzstephen first entered, on or about the 4th May, 1170, at Bag and Bun, a place soe then and yet called, in the said County of Wexford, near Feathard, alias Fight-hard,¹ from the first battle with

¹ This derivation (which is current in the locality to the present day) is equally erroneous with those assigned by Sinnot for the Slany, (p. 61, *supra*), and the name of the Barony Forth, or Fort (p. 63, *supra*). Sinnot says that Slany is Slánaö, health; from the healthful nature of its waters. All our ancient MS. authorities, however, agree in deriving the name of the river from that of Slainge, King of the Firbolgs:—"Slanius inter fratres natu primus, qui Slanio flumini Wexfordiæ adfluenti, nomen fecit."—Keating's "History," Lynche's translation in MS., Trinity College, Dublin. The late Dr. O'Donovan informed us that he had discovered the "standing stone" which marked the grave of

Slainge on the banks of the Slany, near, if we mistake not, Newtownbarry. Forth is derived by Sinnot from the rath or fort of Ballytrent. The following is O'Donovan's account of its origin:—Eochaidh Finnfothart was banished by his nephew Conn of the Hundred Battles, and, having settled in Leinster, the king of that province bestowed on him and his sons certain districts called by his posterity Fotharta, from Eochaidh's surname. Of these the two principal were Fotharta-an-Chairn (hence Carnsore), now the barony of Forth, in "the county of Wexford, and Fotharta-Fea, now the barony of Forth, in the county of Carlow. "Four Masters," vol. i., p. 109, n. About the de-

the Irish, wherein the English were victors, is divided into Eight Baronies, five, viz :—Gorey, Ballaghkeen, Scarwalsh, Bantry, and Shilmalier are the Irish Baronies ; Shilburne, Bargye, and Forth are the English Baronies, but Forth chiefly retains the name, and justlie. Its idiom of speech, tho its not Irish, nor seems English as English is now refined, yett is it more easy to be understood by an Englishman that never heard Irish spoken than by any Irishman that lives remote. Itt's notorious that itt's the very language brought over by Fitzstephen, and retained by them to this day. Whoever hath read old Chaucer, and is at all acquainted therewith, will better understand the Barony of Forth dialect than either an English or Irishman, that never read him, though otherwise a good linguist. Itt was an observation of the Inhabitants of this Barony of Forth, before the last rebellion, that they had kept their Language, Lands, and Loyaltie. Having seldom or never married butt amongst themselves—having never rebelled, butt always been true to the Crowne of England, till this last General, Cruel, Cursed, Horrid and unparalleled Rebellion of 1641.¹ The Inhabitants were most Freeholders, but their freeholds very small, and being never forfeited, remained as they were first set out and divided to Fitzstephen's soldiers. For the soyle of this Barony, it is naturally coarse and barren, yett by the industry of the people, together with its contiguity to the Sea, from which they bring ouze, or oure seaweed, with which they manure their cultivated lands, itts made the Granary of the County and parts adjacent, especially for Barley, in which itt abounds ; and that is all English too, for they will not sow a grain of Beare-barley, and if any one should do soe, the rest would destroy it. They breed few or noe Cattle in this Barony. The men are low of stature, yet well sett, thick, and strong ; very crafty, and deceiptfull enuffe ; few of them schollars, but those that are doe excell. The women alsoe are but of meane stature, very thick legged, but indifferent cumlie and handsome, jocose and pleasant, yet very chaste :—in one particular excelling all their sex in the Kingdom, viz. : they so revere and honour the Male Sex, man, beasts, birds, fishes, that—to instance one particular only—if the Master of a house be from home, his sonne, if any, or if none, then his chief servant present, though but a poor plough-

riuation of Fethard there is no obscurity : it has nothing to do with Fitzstephen's battle. That leader landed at the Island of Bannow (see Giraldus Cambrensis, and the Norman Geste of the Conquest of Ireland), and marched direct to Wexford, where he first met the enemy. Fethard is *Πιού-από*, the high wood, or wood on the height. "The Wood," a place close to the town, still

retains the true meaning of Fethard ; and, although but few trees now grow there, tradition has it that one could once pass for miles from one tree's branches to another, so densely was it wooded.—ED. OF JOURNAL.

¹ Col. Richards overlooks his own rebellious actions, so vehement is he against those whose estates he had acquired.

driver, or cow-boy, shall have the first mess of broath or cut of meate, before the Mistress or her female guests, if she have any. This I know ; but I have heard it affirmed that if there be noe man or boy in the house, they will give the first bitt to a cock or a dog, or any male creature. But more remarkable is it that in this Barony only of Forth, County Wexford, that about high noone, not only men and women, butt children and servants naturally cease from labour and goe to rest for about an hour or two. The cattle doe soe to—the geese and ducks repaire into their Master's yard, and the cockes and the hennes doe goe to roost for that time, and exactly at the hour. This the relator affirms on his own knowledge, having often seen it in that Barony, and in his own house by fowles brought out from that Barony, when his other hennes would not doe soe. One remarque more is, that about ten years since, or more, there came with a strong blacke Esterly wind a flight of Magpies, under a dozen, as I remember, out of England or Wales, as 'tis verilie believed, none having been ever seen in Ireland before. They light in the Barony of Forth, where they have bredd, and are soe increased that they now are in every village and wood in this County—especially in this Barony abundant, my own garden, though in the Towne of Wexford, is continually frequented by them, and they are spread more thinly into other Countys and parts of the Kingdome. The natural Irish much disgust them, saying they shall never be rid of the English while these Magpies remain. The observation is that the English Magpies entered Ireland in the same Countye where the Englishmen first entered it, and in the English Barony alsoe.

In this Barony of Forth is a Lough called “Lough-Togher,” about two miles in length, and a mile in breadth, replenished with divers sorts of fish, excelling in their kind, to admiration, especially Plaice, Bass, Mullet, Fleukes, Elles, &c.,—the sea being contiguous, is by the neighbourhood let in and out once in seven or eight years. In this Lough is an Island called Lady's Island, containing about twelve acres of land, in former times of Ignorance highly esteemed, and accounted Holy—and to this day the natives, persons of honour as well as others, in abundance from remote parts of the Kingdom, doe with great devotion, goe on pilgrimage thither, and there doe penance, going bare-leg and bare-foote, dabling in the water up to mid leg, round the Island. Some others goe one foote in the water, the other on dry land, taking care not to wet the one nor to tread dry with the other. But some great sinners goe on their knees in the water round the Island, and some others that are greater sinners yet, goe three times round on their knees in the water. This I have seen, as also I have seen persons of no mean degree leave their hose and shoes in Wexford, and goe bare-footed in dirty weather from Wexford to this Island, which is eight miles.

and, having done their penance, make their offering in the Chappell, and return to Wexford in the same posture. This, abundance of people (not the wisest) doe every year, towards the end of Summer—but the chieftest or most meritorious time is betwixt their two Lady days of August 15, and September 8. If any Lady, through indisposition, be loath to wett her feete, there are women allowed to doe it for them, they being present and paying half-a-crown for a fee. [.]. And this pennance is effectual enuffe.

“There is another Lough in this Barony called ‘Lough Sale’ [the Lough of Tacumshane] stored alsoe with excellent fish, and, on both Loughs, foule in abundance. But, though this Lough Sale hath an island alsoe, yet is it not half so holy as the other.

“This Barony is now almost wholly possessed by the English of the last accession, sett out to them for arrears, the old English being still numerous, but almost all reduced to Tennancy.

“The Towne of Wexford stands in the end, or rather in the beginning of this Barony of Forth. Tradition, agreeing with Mr. Camden, saith itt was first called ‘Menapia,’ then ‘Weisford.’ Itt is now called Wexford, in Irish Lough-Gorman, or Lough-Gurmon.¹ Itt’s a walled Towne on all sides, except to the sea poole or Harbor, which washeth the North-east side thereof. Itt’s of the form of an half ovall, divided the long way. It hath five gates for entrance, extends itself in length from North-west to South-east above five furlongs. It was in good order and very populous since the last Rebellion, but much depopulated in its taking by Oliver Cromwell. Since that, brought by the English into a flourishing condition, but now about two-thirds of itt lyes in itt’s ruins, through the decay of the Herring Fishing, which was soe great that about the year 1654, there were made and entered into the Custom House of Wexford above Eighty-thousand Barrills of Herrings, and twas thought above Forty-thousand more were made that were not entered. Which trade is soe decayed, that about the year 1678, there was not above Two hundred Barrills made in the whole Towne, nor is there above Two hundred Barrills made this present year, 1682.

“The greatest number of the inhabitants are Irishe—but the magistracy are all English, or Protestants. Itt’s greatest honor is that itt was the first Towne in Ireland that submitted to the English Government—for when Robert Fitzstephen first landed at Bagg-and-Bunn, he presentlie marched to Wexford, and it surrendered to him, and the Lordship thereof, together with a large cir-

¹ Loch Carman was the name of this ancient residence of the kings of Leinster before the Ostmen gave it that of Wexford. According to the Dinn Sean-chus, these kings established fairs,

games, and sports here; hence called the “games of Carman,” which there is every reason to suppose were celebrated on the “Faythe” (see p. 66, *supra*) of Wexford.—“Book of Rights,” p. 15, and *n*.

cuit of Land adjacent given to him by Dermott MacMorrogh, the then Irish King of Leinster. Butt he soone after surrendered his said Lordshipp to King Henry II., who gave the same to Richard Earle of Pembroke, from whom it came to the Marishalls, the Valences, the Hastings, and Lord Gray of Ruthan. Butt King Henry VI., in the year 1442, created John, Lord Talbot, the firste Earle of Shrewsbury of that name, Earle of Wexford, and after that created him Earle of Waterford and Lord Dungarvan; butt itt went noe further, nor hath itt ever since given title to any other that ever I read of, or heard of. It was formerlie divided into eight parishes, viz—St. Iberius, St. Selskar's, St. Patrick's, St. Mary's, St. Toolock's, St. John's, St. Peter's, and St. Michael's; a Monastery alsoe, but now all ruined, under one Minister. The Monastery of St. Selskar was once famous, but now lyes in its ruins; and without the walls, the Abbey of [. . . .], ruined alsoe, but is still possessed by priests and fryars.

“The Government of this Towne of Wexford is by a Mayor, two Bailiffs, and twenty four Burgesses. Itt sends two Burgesses to Parliament. Itt hath a well-frequented Markett, on Saturdays, and another markett on Wednesdays. At the south-east end of the towne stands the Castle, just without the walls. Itt's a great old antique building, said to be reared by King John at his being in Ireland. Doubtless itt's of great antiquity. Cromwell battered itt, and had itt rendered on his own terms.¹ It usually was a garrison, but now not soe. The towne and castle are washed on the North-east side by the mouth of the river Slane, dilated into a poole of about six leagues in circuit. Two necks of land from north and south poynting at each other, over the Harbor's mouth, without which lies the Barr, at least a league to sea. This poole or harbor at the mouth of the river Slane in Ireland, is abundantlie stored with wild fowle, viz—teale, widgeon, duck, wild swannes, &c., but Barnacles in multitudes incredible, a fowle much bigger than a duck but not soe big as a goose, butt as good meat as either. They are said by Gerrard and others to breede, or rather to grow uppon trees—(a gross mistake)—but itt is most certain that from the 21st day of August, on which day they cum into the poole or Harbor of Wexford, to the 21st May, every year, they are in numbers wonderfull—butt on the 21st day of May they do all leave itt, going Northwards by sea, and in the opynion of many curious observers, they goe into the Northern Isles of Scotland to breede—for on the 21st of August following, they do certainlie and constantlie returne into the same poole or Harbor of Wexford, bringing their young ones with them in numbers

¹ He bribed Captain James Stafford, the commandant, to deliver it to him.

beyond expression. This relater as he hath rode forward and backward betwixt Dublin and Wexford, hath often seen them at sea, cuming a day or two before their arrivall, and also going a day or two after their departure, and for above twenty years hath observed their not fayling the time of going or cuminge, as alsoe of their swimming when the tide is with them, and their flying when the tide is against them, now and then resting themselves on the water.¹

“In this great poole or Harbor is an Island called the Great Island—it’s, indeed, two islands, but being wadeable from one to the other they are accompted but one. There is also another lesser island, called the Beg-Erin, in English Little Island. In this island is a little Chapell, and in that a wooden Idoll, in the shape of an old man, called Saint Iberian, from one Iberian, the Patron saint of a Church now the chiefe in repaire and use in Wexford, which Iberian was (as he desired), buried in this island of Beg-Erin. To him people go to worship—and in cases of controversyes about debt or otherwise, the partys goe into this island, where one swears before St. Iberian, and the other willinglie is concluded by his oath. A man goes to sea—at his return hee is jealous that his neighbour in his absence played with his wife—he charges him, the other denys, calls St. Iberian to wittness; they take a boate to the Island—they goe there—the man suspected swears before St. Iberian that he never played with the other man’s wife—the other is full of belief and satisfaction, and ever after esteems that neighbour without jealousie. Sum idle fellows that love not wooden gods, have twice or thrice stolen away St. Iberian, and cleft him out and burned him—once to roast a pigg: but still, Phoenix like, another arises out of its ashes, and is placed there again, and the silly people are persuaded that itts restored by mirracle. And if the new one be younger, fresher, lesser, or not at all like the other, the miracle is the greater. But there one is at this day, and a living Priest goes over now and then to fetch the silly people’s offerings, to keep them for St. Iberian, noe doubt on’t.

“A due East and West Moone makes full sea at the Barr of Wexford. On that neck of land that shoots out of this Barony of Forth to the Harbor’s mouth stands the old demolished fort of Roslare, at the very point of that neck—which neck runs three miles in length and about half a mile in breadth between the said poole or harbor, and the sea, or bay of Greenhore.”

[Here the Manuscript breaks off, and immediately after is an-

¹ This is by far the most intelligent account of the barnacle of any given at that age, and contrasts favourably with

Sinnot’s statement on the same subject. Colonel Richards was evidently a keen and rational observer of nature.

nexed a letter, "By Colonel Solomon Richards, of Wexford," dated December 12, 1682, as follows:—]

"Deare Cousin—Truth as well as modesty commands me to deny your assertion, but as a supplement to what I sent you, I pray you to correct error of parishes in Wexford, which I said to be eight—but are, or rather were twelve; viz^t., St. Peter and Paul in the monastery of Selskers, St. Clements, St. Iberius, St. Toolocks, St. Michael, alias Feagh, the Holy Trinity, St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, St. Mary Magdalene's, St. Bride's, St. Peter's, and St. John's. All now united, which pray rectifie, and to the descriptive add, if you please, viz^t.:—

"The River Slane celebrated by Michael Drayton as I remember by the name of the 'Sandie Slane' att the Marriage of the Thame and Isis (if I mistake, pray pardon me for my memory looks backe above fivety years, itt being soe long since I reade itt). Itts indeed a sandy, swift, cleere river. Running out of the County Catherlagh, devides the County of Wexford in two parts throw the midst, and disgorgeth itself through the aforementioned poole or Harbor into the sea. Itts navigable about 10 miles to Enniscorthy, an ancient Borogh, where about two years since, a strong, brave Bridge of stone and lime was built, att a greate charge, by the country. This River is verry well stored with Fish, as Salmon, Trout, Eeles, but oought to preeceede all the Rivers in Ireland for ittts pearle fishing, which thow not aboundant, yet excellent—for muscles are daily taken out of itt about fowre, five and six inches long, in which are often found pearles, for lustre, magnitude and rotundity not inferior to Orientall, or any other in the world. They have lately been sold by a Merchant that dined this day with me, for 20^s, 30^s, 40^s, and three pound a pearle to the Goldsmiths or Jewellers in London. He sould twenty lately for twenty broad pieces of Gould, and a parcel of small ones for 40 pounds. This brave river ought not to bee omitted. Butt of this, as the former Gent. that cumpiles the part of the Atlas must take and leave what he pleaseth or finds necessary. This is night worke also. Therefore accept my good meaning, with this scribble, from your affectionate Uncle to serve you."

Here we conclude the three chorographic papers furnished to Sir William Petty relative to the county of Wexford. The publication of the similar treatises respecting other districts in this kingdom, which are still in MS., is a *desideratum*. Of all of them, the Westmeath, Iar-Connaught, and Wexford ones alone are, we believe, yet printed. The "Atlas" to which Colonel Richards refers is the volume of maps which was then in course of publishing by

Petty, and which is now so scarce as to sell for from £7 to £10. The old soldier's memory failed him when he thought the passage about the "Sandie Slane" was Drayton's: it is in Spenser's "Faërie Queene." His statement that the bar at the mouth of this river lay a league away to sea is probably also an error, since it now lies only a mile off. Gerald Barry, who was 'secretary to King John when as Lord of Ireland he visited this country, states that when Henry the Second embarked from Wexford, "on the mondaie in Easter weeke, earlie in the morning at the sun rising, he tooke shipping without the barre of Wexford."—Hooker's Translation, in "Holinshed," p. 166. On the subject of this bar, and the history of the seaport, an article on Wexford Harbour, in the "Dublin University Magazine" for May, 1862, may be referred to. If any of our readers can supply information respecting the pearl fishery, which is noticed by Colonel Richards, they assuredly will gratify the remainder. Our chorographer also notices the "lordship of Leinster," the true title of Strongbow's fief. This lordship was vested in Richard de Clare, commonly called Strongbow, and descended, by his heiress, to the Marshalls. By a coheiress of the latter family, the lordship of Wexford came, in 1245, to baron Montchesne, who had the title of "lord of Wexford;" and, by his heiress, it devolved on De Valence, through whose coheiresses it fell in abeyance between Gray and Hastings. By an heiress of the latter family the title came to Sir Richard Talbot, whose son, the famous Sir John Talbot, first Earl of Shrewsbury, was therefore hereditary lord of Wexford. His creation as Earl of Waterford, and Seneschal, or, as it is now called, High steward of Ireland, was in 1446, and it remains to be proved that, as it seems likely, he was previously created Earl of Wexford, since, owing to the doubt on this point, and although this last title is not borne by the Talbots, it has never been granted to any other family.

Colonel Richards' notice of Wexford Castle shows that this fortress was of considerable size. It stood on the site of the original Danish fort, which is now occupied by the town barracks.

Let us hope that our Archæological Society will be able to lay before its subscribers, from time to time, the remaining MS. accounts of Irish districts, some of which do not yield in interest to the foregoing.
